UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Kelly Flaherty,	: : Civil Action No.:
Plaintiff, v.	:
CACH LLC; and DOES 1-10, inclusive,	COMPLAINT
Defendant.	: : :

For this Complaint, the Plaintiff, Kelly Flaherty, by undersigned counsel, states as follows:

JURISDICTION

- 1. This action arises out of Defendant's repeated violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq. ("FDCPA"), and the invasions of Plaintiff's personal privacy by the Defendant and its agents in their illegal efforts to collect a consumer debt.
 - 2. Supplemental jurisdiction exists pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367.
- 3. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), in that the Defendants transact business in this District and a substantial portion of the acts giving rise to this action occurred in this District.

PARTIES

- 4. The Plaintiff, Kelly Flaherty ("Plaintiff"), is an adult individual residing in Tunkhannock, Pennsylvania, and is a "consumer" as the term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3).
- 5. Defendant CACH LLC ("CACH"), is a Colorado business entity with an address of 4340 South Monaco, Second Floor, Denver, Colorado 80237, operating as a collection agency, and is a "debt collector" as the term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).
- 6. Does 1-10 (the "Collectors") are individual collectors employed by CACH and whose identities are currently unknown to the Plaintiff. One or more of the Collectors may be joined as parties once their identities are disclosed through discovery.
 - 7. CACH at all times acted by and through one or more of the Collectors.

ALLEGATIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL COUNTS

A. The Debt

- 8. The Plaintiff incurred a financial obligation in the approximate amount of \$2,000 (the "Debt") to Bank of America (the "Creditor").
- 9. The Debt arose from services provided by the Creditor which were primarily for family, personal or household purposes and which meets the definition of a "debt" under 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(5).
- 10. The Debt was purchased, assigned or transferred to CACH for collection, or CACH was employed by the Creditor to collect the Debt.
- 11. The Defendants attempted to collect the Debt and, as such, engaged in "communications" as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(2).

B. CACH Engages in Harassment and Abusive Tactics

- 12. CACH placed several calls to Plaintiff's boyfriend's residential telephone in an attempt to collect the Debt. Plaintiff's boyfriend is a third party to the Debt.
- 13. CACH continued to place calls to Plaintiff's boyfriend's residential telephone after Plaintiff requested that CACH cease doing so on two (2) separate occasions.
- 14. When CACH placed calls to Plaintiff's boyfriend, CACH had correct contact information for Plaintiff, and CACH was in contact with Plaintiff to collect the debt.
- 15. CACH has placed as many as ten (10) calls a day to Plaintiff's cellular telephone in an attempt to collect the Debt.
- 16. As part of Plaintiff's job, she regularly speaks with victims of child abuse.

 CACH's repeated phone calls to Plaintiff's cellular telephone often disrupt Plaintiff during these conversations and negatively affect her job performance.
- 17. In December 2010, CACH withdrew \$200.00 from Plaintiff's bank account without Plaintiff's authorization.
- 18. CACH used rude and abusive language when attempting to collect the Debt from Plaintiff and would often scream at Plaintiff. CACH's language was so abusive at times that Plaintiff would begin crying after the end of her conversations with CACH.

C. Plaintiff Suffered Actual Damages

19. The Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer actual damages as a result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct.

- 20. As a direct consequence of the Defendants' acts, practices and conduct, the Plaintiff suffered and continues to suffer from humiliation, anger, anxiety, emotional distress, fear, frustration and embarrassment.
- 21. The Defendants' conduct was so outrageous in character, and so extreme in degree, as to go beyond all possible bounds of decency, and to be regarded as atrocious, and utterly intolerable in a civilized community.

COUNT I

VIOLATIONS OF THE FDCPA 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq.

- 22. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
- 23. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692b(3) in that Defendants contacted third parties in regards to the Plaintiff's debt on numerous occasions, without being asked to do so.
- 24. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692c(a)(1) in that Defendants contacted the Plaintiff at a place and during a time known to be inconvenient for the Plaintiff.
- 25. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692d(2) in that Defendants used profane and abusive language when speaking with the consumer.
- 26. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692d(5) in that Defendants caused a phone to ring repeatedly and engaged the Plaintiff in telephone conversations, with the intent to annoy and harass.
- 27. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(2) in that Defendants misrepresented the character, amount and legal status of the debt.

- 28. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(10) in that Defendants employed false and deceptive means to collect a debt.
- 29. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692f(5) in that Defendants caused charges to be made to the Plaintiff.
- 30. The foregoing acts and omissions of the Defendants constitute numerous and multiple violations of the FDCPA, including every one of the above-cited provisions.
 - 31. The Plaintiff is entitled to damages as a result of Defendants' violations.

COUNT II

<u>VIOLATIONS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA FAIR CREDIT EXTENSION</u> <u>UNIFORMITY ACT, 73 P.S. § 2270, et seq.</u>

- 32. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
 - 33. The Plaintiff is a "consumer," as defined in 73 P.S. § 2270.3.
- 34. The Defendants are each individually a "debt collector" as defined in 73 P.S. § 2270.3.
- 35. The Defendants violated provisions of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq., which constitutes an unfair or deceptive practice under 73 P.S. § 2270.4(a).
 - 36. The Plaintiff is entitled to damages as a result of the Defendants' violations.

COUNT III

INVASION OF PRIVACY BY INTRUSION UPON SECLUSION

37. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.

- 38. The Restatement of Torts, Second, § 652(b) defines intrusion upon seclusion as, "One who intentionally intrudes...upon the solitude or seclusion of another, or his private affairs or concerns, is subject to liability to the other for invasion of privacy, if the intrusion would be highly offensive to a reasonable person."
- 39. Pennsylvania further recognizes the Plaintiff's right to be free from invasions of privacy, thus the Defendants violated Pennsylvania state law.
- 40. The Defendants intentionally intruded upon Plaintiff's right to privacy by continually harassing Plaintiff with calls to third parties after Plaintiff requested that Defendants cease doing so.
- 41. The telephone calls made by the Defendants to Plaintiff were so persistent and repeated with such frequency as to be considered, "hounding the plaintiff," and, "a substantial burden to her existence," thus satisfying the Restatement of Torts, Second, § 652(b) requirement for an invasion of privacy.
- 42. The conduct of the Defendants in engaging in the illegal collection activities resulted in multiple invasions of privacy in such a way as would be considered highly offensive to a reasonable person.
- 43. As a result of the intrusions and invasions, the Plaintiff is entitled to actual damages in an amount to be determined at trial from the Defendants.
- 44. All acts of the Defendants and its agents were committed with malice, intent, wantonness, and recklessness, and as such, the Defendants are subject to punitive damages.

COUNT IV

VIOLATIONS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES AND CONSUMER PROTECTION LAW, 73 P.S. § 201-1, et seq.

- 45. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
- 46. The Defendants' violations of the Pennsylvania Fair Credit Extension Uniformity

 Act constitute per se violations under the Pennsylvania Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer

 Protection Law.
- 47. The Defendants' acts were done with malicious, intentional, willful, reckless, wanton and negligent disregard for Plaintiff's rights under the law.
- 48. As a result of the Defendants' violations, the Plaintiff has suffered ascertainable losses entitling the Plaintiff to actual, statutory and treble damages.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff prays that judgment be entered against the Defendants:

- 1. Actual damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(1) against the Defendants;
- 2. Statutory damages of \$1,000.00 pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692k(a)(2)(A) against the Defendants;
- 3. Costs of litigation and reasonable attorney's fees pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(3) and 73 P.S. § 2270.5 against the Defendants;
- 4. Statutory damages pursuant to 73 P.S. § 2270.5(c);
- 5. Actual damages pursuant to 73 P.S. § 201-9.2(a);
- 6. Statutory damages pursuant to 73 P.S. § 201-9.2(a);
- 7. Treble damages pursuant to 73 P.S. § 201-9.2(a);
- 8. Actual damages from the Defendants for all damages including emotional

distress suffered as a result of the intentional, reckless, and/or negligent FDCPA violations and intentional, reckless, and/or negligent invasions of privacy in an amount to be determined at trial for the Plaintiff;

- 9. Punitive damages; and
- 10. Such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

TRIAL BY JURY DEMANDED ON ALL COUNTS

Dated: March 18, 2011

Respectfully submitted,

By /s/ Jody B. Burton

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